

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for online auction, comprising:

receiving at a server over a network electronic data representing initial values for each bid variable from one of a plurality of enterprise supplier bidders of an online auction hosted by the server over the network for bidding for a lot of goods ~~sponsored-sought~~ by an enterprise buyer remotely located over the network, the lot of goods having a plurality of line items and each line item associated with a bid variable;

the server executing one or more computer instructions for calculating a total bid value by performing a function on the bid variables using the initial values, the function implemented by the one or more computer instructions including a predetermined formula, ~~in which~~ wherein each line item is associated with a weight factor determined by the enterprise buyer, when combined with a bid variable associated with a respective line item, contributes in the total bid value of the lot of goods, and wherein the total bid value is used to bid on behalf of the respective enterprise supplier bidder for the lot of goods as a whole and the total bid value is further used by respective enterprise supplier bidder to determine the bidding position by comparing total bid values of a remainder of the plurality of enterprise supplier bidders;

receiving electronically at the server data representing an updated value different than the initial values for one of the bid variables from the enterprise supplier bidder over the network; and
the server automatically executing one or more computer instructions for calculating an adjusted value for the total bid value by performing the function using the updated value, wherein the adjusted value is used to rank the respective enterprise supplier bidder with respect to a newest bidding position in view other enterprise supplier bidders,
wherein the bid variables of the plurality of line items comprises a first portion of the bid variables that is fixed and a second portion of the bid variables that is adjustable automatically without user intervention, and wherein the automatically calculating an adjusted value for the total bid value is performed based on adjustable values of the second portion of the bid variables, while the first portion remains unchanged.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing market feedback regarding the calculated total bid value to a remainder of the enterprise supplier bidders to enable the remainder of the enterprise supplier bidders to determine a market condition of enterprise supplier bidders.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the market feedback comprises at least one of bids that have been placed by other enterprise supplier bidders, ranking of an

enterprise supplier bidder's bid with respect to one or more other enterprise supplier bidders, identities of the enterprise supplier bidders, quality of goods to be provided by the enterprise supplier bidders, and shipping costs associated with one or more enterprise supplier bidders.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a summarized bid for each enterprise supplier bidder including the total bid value, a reputation, a location, and a contract term length associated with the respective enterprise supplier bidder; and
distributing the summarized bid of each enterprise supplier bidder to the enterprise buyer and a remainder of the enterprise supplier bidders to allow the enterprise buyer and the remaining enterprise supplier bidders to view market conditions.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

the enterprise buyer selecting an enterprise supplier bidder based on information presented in the summary bid associated with the selected enterprise supplier bidder, including the total bid value, a reputation, a location, and a contract term length associated with the respective enterprise supplier bidder; and
negotiating a supply contract with the selected enterprise supplier bidder using the information presented by the summarized bid of the selected enterprise supplier bidder.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9~~1~~, wherein the first portion of the bid variables is manually adjustable by a user of a respective supplier bidder, and wherein the first and second portions of the bid variables are determined by the respective supplier bidder.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein if the total bid value is configured as fixed, an update on an adjustable bid variable causes at least one of the rest of the second portion of the bid variables to be adjusted automatically without user intervention to maintain the total bid value unchanged.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising a supplier bidder setting a maximum value and a minimum value for at least one of adjustable bid variables of the second portion, such that the at least one adjustable bid variable is automatically adjusted without user intervention within a range between the minimum and maximum values associated.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the second portion of variable bids includes a primary bid variable and a secondary variable bid, and wherein the secondary bid variable is adjusted only if the primary bid variable has been adjusted reaching one of the maximum and minimum values associated with the primary bid variable.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) to a user of a supplier bidder, the GUI including at least one bid variable having a first option to configure the bid variable as a fixed bid variable and a second

option to configure the bid variable as an adjustable bid variable, wherein the second option is exclusive selectable with respect to the first option.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising displaying a field specifying at least one of an increment value and a decrement value for at least one of adjustable bid variables displayed within the GUI for purposes of automatic adjustments.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one of the increment and decrement value is configured in one of an amount of price and a percentage of price.

17. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having executable code to cause a machine to perform a method of an online auction, the method comprising:

receiving at a server over a network electronic data representing initial values for each bid variable from one of a plurality of enterprise supplier bidders of an online auction hosted by the server over the network for bidding for a lot of goods sought ~~sponsored~~ by an enterprise buyer remotely located over the network, the lot of goods having a plurality of line items and each line item associated with a bid variable;

the server executing one or more computer instructions for calculating a total bid value by performing a function on the bid variables using the initial values, the function implemented by the one or more computer instructions including a predetermined formula, ~~in which~~ wherein each line item is associated with a weight factor determined by the enterprise buyer, when combined with a bit

variable associated with a respective line item, contributes in the total bid value of the lot of goods, and wherein the total bid value is used to bid on behalf of the respective enterprise supplier bidder for the lot of goods as a whole and the total bid value is further used by respective enterprise supplier bidder to determine the bidding position by comparing total bid values of a remainder of the plurality of enterprise supplier bidders;

receiving electronically at the server data representing an updated value different than the initial values for one of the bid variables from the enterprise supplier bidder over the network; and

the server automatically executing one or more computer instructions for calculating an adjusted value for the total bid value by performing the function using the updated value, wherein the adjusted value is used to rank the respective enterprise supplier bidder with respect to a newest bidding position in view other enterprise supplier bidders,

wherein the bid variables of the plurality of line items comprises a first portion of the bid variables that is fixed and a second portion of the bid variables that is adjustable automatically without user intervention, and wherein the automatically calculating an adjusted value for the total bid value is performed based on adjustable values of the second portion of the bid variables, while the first portion remains unchanged.

18. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for an online auction, comprising:
a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing instructions, when executed from the memory, cause the processor to

receive at a server over a network electronic data representing initial values for each bid variable from one of a plurality of enterprise supplier bidders of an online auction hosted by the server over the network for bidding for a lot of goods sought sponsored by an enterprise buyer remotely located over the network, the lot of goods having a plurality of line items and each line item associated with a bid variable,

calculate by the server by executing one or more computer instructions a total bid value by performing a function on the bid variables using the initial values, the function implemented by the one or more computer instructions including a predetermined formula, wherein which each line item is associated with a weight factor determined by the enterprise buyer, when combined with a bid variable associated with a respective line item, contributes in the total bid value of the lot of goods, and wherein the total bid value is used to bid on behalf of the respective enterprise supplier bidder for the lot of goods as a whole and the total bid value is further used by respective enterprise supplier bidder to determine the bidding position by comparing total bid values of a remainder of the plurality of enterprise supplier bidders,

receive electronically at the server data representing an updated value different than the initial values for one of the bid variables from the enterprise supplier bidder over the network, and

automatically calculate by the server by executing one or more computer instructions

an adjusted value for the total bid value by performing the function using the

updated value, wherein the adjusted value is used to rank the respective

enterprise supplier bidder with respect to a newest bidding position in view

other enterprise supplier bidders,

wherein the bid variables of the plurality of line items comprises a first portion

of the bid variables that is fixed and a second portion of the bid

variables that is adjustable automatically without user intervention, and

wherein the automatically calculating an adjusted value for the total bid

value is performed based on adjustable values of the second portion of

the bid variables, while the first portion remains unchanged.